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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,369	07/09/2003	Nobuo Osaka	Yoshida.7138	1239
55740	7590	04/07/2006		
GAUTHIER & CONNORS, LLP 225 FRANKLIN STREET BOSTON, MA 02110			EXAMINER AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2166	
DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/616,369	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OSAKA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Navneet K. Ahluwalia	<b>Art Unit</b> 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/30/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. In response to the election of Group III, The application has been examined.

Claims 14 – 19 are pending in this office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 14 – 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mohi et al. ('Mohi' herein after) (US 2003/0195008 A1).

With respect to claim 14,

Mohi discloses an operation instructing terminal, carried by an operations manager, for acquiring operation instructions from an instruction center side and presenting the operation instructions to the operations manager (Figure 18, Mohi), comprising:

- a storage section for storing acquired operation instruction content (Figure 18 elements 210 and 212, Mohi);

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- means for collecting information relating to operating conditions of a terminal (Figure 18 interaction between element 200 and element 212, Mohi); and
- means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer operation instruction content stored in the storage section if the collected information related to operating conditions satisfies previously set operation stop conditions or if any instruction is acquired from the instruction center (page 1 – 2 paragraphs 0020 and 0023, Mohi).

With respect to claim 15,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system containing a center side device and a plurality of search supporting devices possessed by each search staff (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein: the center side device comprises:

- means for transmitting a search instruction to a specific search supporting terminal possessed by a search manager selected from among search staff managing a search of a person being sought (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about the sought person relating to a received search request in, response to a request from the specific search supporting device, wherein the search supporting devices are set to be capable of requesting information on the sought person if a search instruction is received (page 3 paragraph 0059 lines 1 – 17, Mohi).

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With respect to claim 16,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system, comprising a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi), a center side device and a search supporting device possessed by every search manager (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein: the center side device comprises:

- means for holding a plurality of items of information relating to a sought person and respective security levels in a correlated manner (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for receiving current position information of a search supporting device and a request for sought person information from the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0098 lines 1 – 17, Mohi);
- means for calculating information on a relative positional relationship between a transmitter carried by a sought person and a search supporting device based on current position information of the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for determining a disclosable security level based on the relative positional relationship information (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about sought persons up to a security level set as disclosable to a requesting search supporting device based on the determination (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

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With respect to claim 17,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system comprising: a center side device, and a plurality of search supporting devices (Figure 18, Mohi), one of each possessed by each search manager, for acquiring information of persons to be sought (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi) from the center side device and providing this information to a search manager, wherein the search supporting devices are provided with means for storing acquired sought person information, and delete the stored sought person information upon receipt of a search completion instruction input from a search manager (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 18,

Mohi discloses the search supporting system of any one of claims 15, wherein the sought person information contains image information of a portrait information of the sought person (page 3 paragraph 0057 lines 5 – 9 and page 4 paragraph 0070, Mohi).

With respect to claim 19,

Mohi discloses a search supporting device, possessed by a search manager, comprising:

- means for detecting its own current position (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for acquiring current position of a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi);

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- means for calculating a relative positional relationship of itself and the transmitter based on the detected own current position information and the current position of the transmitter (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for receiving and storing a plurality of items of information relating to sought persons from a center side together with respective security level attributes (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for determining disclosable security levels according to the calculated relative positional relationship (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi) and providing to a search manager information, among stored information relating to sought persons, that has been determined as being disclosable (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

**Note:** In the Restriction Requirement of January 20, 2006 Examiner had erroneously grouped claim 17 in both Groups II and III. It is originally classified in Group II but has been considered as a part of Group III in view of the election and stand rejected.

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**Contact Information**


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Navneet K. Ahluwalia  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2166



MOHAMMAD ALI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dated: 03/30/2006